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Typical cerebrospinal fluid findings in central nervous system infections*

	Glucose (mg/dL)		Protein (mg/dL)		Total white blood cell count (cells/microL)		
	<10¶	**10 to 40Δ**	**100 to 500◇**	**50 to 300§**	**>1000**	**100 to 1000**	**5 to 100**
More common	Bacterial meningitis	Bacterial meningitis	Bacterial meningitis	Viral meningitis Nervous system Lyme disease (neuroborreliosis) Encephalitis Neurosyphilis TB meningitis¥	Bacterial meningitis	Bacterial or viral meningitis TB meningitis	Early bacterial meningitis Viral meningitis Neurosyphilis TB meningitis
Less common	TB meningitis Fungal meningitis	Neurosyphilis Some viral infections (such as mumps and LCMV)		Early bacterial meningitis	Some cases of mumps and LCMV	Encephalitis	Encephalitis

TB: tuberculosis; LCMV: lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus.
* It is important to note that the spectrum of cerebrospinal fluid values in bacterial meningitis is so wide that the absence of one or more of these findings is of little value. Refer to the UpToDate topic reviews on bacterial meningitis for additional details.
¶ <0.6 mmol/L.
Δ 0.6 to 2.2 mmol/L.
◇ 1 to 5 g/L.
§ 0.5 to 3 g/L.

¥ Cerebrospinal fluid protein concentrations may be higher in some patients with tuberculous meningitis; concentrations >500 mg/dL are an indication of blood-brain barrier disruption or increased intracerebral production of immunoglobulins, and extremely high concentrations, in the range of 2 to 6 g/dL, may be found in association with subarachnoid block.

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